



# Assessment of Radiofrequency Microwave Radiation Emissions from Smart Meters

Sage Associates  
Santa Barbara, CA  
USA

January 1, 2011

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

How Smart Meters Work

Mandate

Purpose of this Report

Conditions that Affect Radiofrequency Radiation Levels from Meters

Framing Questions

### **HOW THEY WORK –**

Mesh Network

Smart Meter(s) and collector meters

Power Transmitters

### **METHODOLOGY**

### **APPLICABLE PUBLIC SAFETY LIMITS**

FCC Bulletin OET 65 Guidelines (Time-Averaging Limits)

ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992, 1999 (Peak Power Limits)

### **RESULTS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Tables 1-6 RF Levels at 6”, 11” and 28” (Face, Nursery, Kitchen)

Tables 7-17 (FCC Violations of TWA and Peak Power)

Tables 18-31 (Comparison of RF Levels to Health Studies)

Tables 32-33 (Comparison to BioInitiative Recommendation)

Tables A1- A16 (RF Power Density vs Distance Tables)

Tables A17-A32 (Nursery at 11” Summary Tables)

Tables A33-A48 (Kitchen at 28” Summary Tables)

APPENDIX A – Tables A1 – A16 RF Power Density vs. Distance Tables  
Tables A17-A32 (Nursery at 11” Summary Tables)  
Tables A33-A48 (Kitchen at 28” Summary Tables)

APPENDIX B – Tables 1 – 33 - Data Tables, FCC Violation Tables, Health Comparisons

APPENDIX C – Sensitivity of the Eye and Testes to RF Radiation

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

This Report has been prepared to document radiofrequency radiation (RF) levels associated with wireless smart meters in various scenarios depicting common ways in which they are installed and operated.

The Report includes computer modeling of the range of possible smart meter RF levels that are occurring in the typical installation and operation of a single smart meter, and also multiple meters in California. It includes analysis of both two-antenna smart meters (the typical installation) and of three-antenna meters (the collector meters that relay RF signals from another 500 to 5000 homes in the area).

RF levels from the various scenarios depicting normal installation and operation, and possible FCC violations have been determined based on both time-averaged and peak power limits (Tables 1 - 14).

Potential violations of current FCC public safety standards for smart meters and/or collector meters in the manner installed and operated in California are

predicted in this Report, based on computer modeling (Tables 10 – 17).

Tables 1 – 17 show power density data and possible conditions of violation of the FCC public safety limits, and Tables 18 – 33 show comparisons to health studies reporting adverse health impacts.

FCC compliance violations are likely to occur under normal conditions of installation and operation of smart meters and collector meters in California. Violations of FCC safety limits for uncontrolled public access are identified at distances within 6” of the meter. Exposure to the face is possible at this distance, in violation of the time-weighted average safety limits (Tables 10-11). FCC violations are predicted to occur at 60% reflection (OET Equation 10 and 100% reflection (OET Equation 6) factors\*, both used in FCC OET 65 formulas for such calculations for time-weighted average limits. Peak power limits are not violated at the 6” distance (looking at the meter) but can be at 3” from the meter, if it is touched.

This report has also assessed the potential for FCC violations based on two examples of RF exposures in a typical residence. RF levels have been calculated at distances of 11” (to represent a nursery or bedroom with a crib or bed against a wall opposite one or more meters); and at 28” (to represent a kitchen work space with one or more meters installed on the kitchen wall).

FCC compliance violations are identified at 11” in a nursery or bedroom setting using Equation 10\* of the FCC OET 65 regulations (Tables 12-13). These violations are predicted to occur where there are multiple smart meters, or one collector meter, or one collector meter mounted together with

several smart meters.

FCC compliance violations are not predicted at 28” in the kitchen work space for 60% or for 100% reflection calculations. Violations of FCC public safety limits are predicted for higher reflection factors of 1000% and 2000%, which are not a part of FCC OET 65 formulas, but are included here to allow for situations where site-specific conditions (highly reflective environments, for example, galley-type kitchens with many highly reflective stainless steel or other metallic surfaces) may be warranted.\*

\*FCC OET 65 Equation 10 assumes 60% reflection and Equation 6 assumes 100% reflection. RF levels are also calculated in this report to account for some situations where interior environments have highly reflective surfaces as might be found in a small kitchen with stainless steel or other metal counters, appliances and furnishings. This report includes the FCC’s reflection factors of 60% and 100%, and also reflection factors of 1000% and 2000% that are more in line with those reported in Hondou, 2001; Hondou, 2006 and Vermeeren et al, 2010. The use of a 1000% reflection factor is still conservative in comparison to Hondou, 2006. A 1000% reflection factor is 12% (or 121 times as high) a factor for power density compared to Hondou et al, 2006 prediction of 1000 times higher power densities due to reflection. A 2000% reflection factor is only 22% (or 441 times) that of Hondou’s finding that power density can be as high as 2000 times higher.

In addition to exceeding FCC public safety limits under some conditions of installation and operation, smart meters can produce excessively elevated RF exposures, depending on where they are installed. With respect to absolute RF exposure levels predicted for occupied space within dwellings, or outside areas like patios, gardens and walk-ways, RF levels are predicted to be substantially elevated within a few feet to within a few tens of feet from the meter(s).

For example, one smart meter at 11” from occupied space produces somewhere between 1.4 and 140 microwatts per centimeter squared (uW/cm<sup>2</sup>) depending on the duty cycle modeled (Table 12). Since FCC

OET 65 specifies that continuous exposure be assumed where the public cannot be excluded (such as is applicable to one's home), this calculation produces an RF level of 140 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> at 11" using the FCC's lowest reflection factor of 60%. Using the FCC's reflection factor of 100%, the figures rise to 2.2 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> – 218 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>, where the continuous exposure calculation is 218 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (Table 12). These are very significantly elevated RF exposures in comparison to typical individual exposures in daily life. Multiple smart meters in the nursery/bedroom example at 11" are predicted to generate RF levels from about 5 to 481 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> at the lowest (60%) reflection factor; and 7.5 to 751 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> using the FCC's 100% reflection factor (Table 13). Such levels are far above typical public exposures.

RF levels at 28" in the kitchen work space are also predicted to be significantly elevated with one or more smart meters (or a collector meter alone or in combination with multiple smart meters). At 28" distance, RF levels are predicted in the kitchen example to be as high as 21 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> from a single meter and as high as 54.5 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> with multiple smart meters using the lower of the FCC's reflection factor of 60% (Table 14). Using the FCC's higher reflection factor of 100%, the RF levels are predicted to be as high as 33.8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> for a single meter and as high as 85.8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> for multiple smart meters (Table 14). For a single collector meter, the range is 60.9 to 95.2 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (at 60% and 100% reflection factors, respectively) (from Table 15).

Table 16 illustrates predicted violations of peak power limit (4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>) at 3" from the surface of a meter. FCC violations of peak power limit are predicted to occur for a single collector meter at both 60% and 100%

reflection factors. This situation might occur if someone touches a smart meter or stands directly in front.

Consumers may also have already increased their exposures to radiofrequency radiation in the home through the voluntary use of wireless devices (cell and cordless phones), PDAs like BlackBerry and iPhones, wireless routers for wireless internet access, wireless home security systems, wireless baby surveillance (baby monitors), and other emerging wireless applications.

Neither the FCC, the CPUC, the utility nor the consumer know what portion of the allowable public safety limit is already being used up or pre-empted by RF from other sources already present in the particular location a smart meter may be installed and operated.

Consumers, for whatever personal reason, choice or necessity who have already eliminated all possible wireless exposures from their property and lives, may now face excessively high RF exposures in their homes from smart meters on a 24-hour basis. This may force limitations on use of their otherwise occupied space, depending on how the meter is located, building materials in the structure, and how it is furnished.

People who are afforded special protection under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act are not sufficiently acknowledged nor protected. People who have medical and/or metal implants or other conditions rendering them vulnerable to health risks at lower levels than FCC RF limits may be particularly at risk (Tables 30-31). This is also likely to hold true for other

subgroups, like children and people who are ill or taking medications, or are elderly, for they have different reactions to pulsed RF. Childrens' tissues absorb RF differently and can absorb more RF than adults (Christ et al, 2010; Wiart et al, 2008). The elderly and those on some medications respond more acutely to some RF exposures.

Safety standards for peak exposure limits to radiofrequency have not been developed to take into account the particular sensitivity of the eyes, testes and other ball shaped organs. There are no peak power limits defined for the eyes and testes, and it is not unreasonable to imagine situations where either of these organs comes into close contact with smart meters and/or collector meters, particularly where they are installed in multiples (on walls of multi-family dwellings that are accessible as common areas).

In summary, no positive assertion of safety can be made by the FCC, nor relied upon by the CPUC, with respect to pulsed RF when exposures are chronic and occur in the general population. Indiscriminate exposure to environmentally ubiquitous pulsed RF from the rollout of millions of new RF sources (smart meters) will mean far greater general population exposures, and potential health consequences. Uncertainties about the existing RF environment (how much RF exposure already exists), what kind of interior reflective environments exist (reflection factor), how interior space is utilized near walls), and other characteristics of residents (age, medical condition, medical implants, relative health, reliance on critical care equipment that may be subject to electronic interference, etc) and unrestrained access to areas of property where meter is located all argue for caution.



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **How Smart Meters Work**

This report is limited to a very simple overview of how smart meters work, and the other parts of the communication system that are required for them to transmit information on energy usage within a home or other building. The reader can find more detailed information on smart meter and smart grid technology from numerous sources available on the Internet.

Often called ‘advanced metering infrastructure or AMI’, smart meters are a part of an overall system that includes a) a mesh network or series of wireless antennas at the neighborhood level to collect and transmit wireless information from all the smart meters in that area back to a utility.

The mesh network (sometimes called a distributed antenna system) requires wireless antennas to be located throughout neighborhoods in close proximity to where smart meters will be placed. Often, a municipality will receive a hundred or more individual applications for new cellular antenna service, which is specifically to serve smart meter technology needs. The communication network needed to serve smart meters is typically separate from existing cellular and data transmission antennas (cell tower antennas). The mesh network (or DAS) antennas are often utility-pole mounted. This part of the system can spread hundreds of new wireless antennas throughout neighborhoods.

Smart meters are a new type electrical meter that will measure your energy usage, like the old ones do now. But, it will send the information back to the utility by wireless signal (radiofrequency/microwave radiation signal) instead of having a utility meter reader come to the property and manually do the monthly electric service reading. So, smart meters are replacements for the older ‘spinning dial’ or analog electric meters. Smart meters are not optional, and utilities are installing them even where occupants do not want them.

In order for smart meters to monitor and control energy usage via this wireless communication system, the consumer must be willing to install power transmitters inside the home. This is the third part of the system and involves placing power transmitters (radiofrequency/microwave radiation emitting devices) within the home on each appliance. A power transmitter is required to measure the energy use of individual appliances (e.g., washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, etc) and it will send information via wireless radiofrequency signal back to the smart meter. Each power transmitter handles a separate appliance. A typical kitchen and laundry may have a dozen power transmitters in total. If power transmitters are not installed by the homeowner, or otherwise mandated on consumers via federal legislation requiring all new appliances to have power transmitters built into them, then there may be little or no energy reporting nor energy savings.

Smart meters could also be installed that would operate by wired, rather than wireless means. Shielded cable, such as is available for cable modem (wired internet connection) could connect smart meters to utilities. However, it is

not easy to see the solution to transmit signals from power transmitters (energy use for each appliance) back to the utility.

Collector meters are a special type of smart meter that can serve to collect the radiofrequency/microwave radiation signals from many surrounding buildings and send them back to the utility. Collector meters are intended to collect and re-transmit radiofrequency information for somewhere between 500-5000 homes or buildings. They have three operating antennas compared to two antennas in regular smart meters. Their radiofrequency microwave emissions are higher and they send wireless signal much more frequently. Collector meters can be placed on a home or other building like smart meters, and there is presently no way to know which a homeowner or property owner might receive.

### **Mandate**

The California Public Utilities Commission has authorized California's investor-owned utilities (including Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison Company and San Diego Gas & Electric) to install more than 10 million new wireless\* smart meters in California, replacing existing electric meters as part of the federal SmartGrid program.

The goal is to provide a new residential energy management tool. It is intended to reduce energy consumption by providing computerized information to customers about what their energy usage is and how they might reduce it by running appliances during 'off-time' or 'lower load'

conditions. Presumably this will save utilities from having to build new facilities for peak load demand. Utilities will install a new smart meter on every building to which electrical service is provided now. In Southern California, that is about 5 million smart meters in three years for a cost of around \$1.6 billion dollars. In northern California, Pacific Gas & Electric is slated to install millions of meters at a cost of more than \$2.2 billion dollars. If consumers decide to join the program (so that appliances can report energy usage to the utility), they can be informed about using energy during off-use or low-use periods, but only if consumers also agree to install additional wireless power transmitters on appliances inside the home. Each power transmitter is an additional source of pulsed RF that produces high exposures at close range in occupied space within the home.

*“Proponents of smart meters say that when these meters are teamed up with an in-home display that shows current energy usage, as well as a communicating thermostat and software that harvest and analyze that information, consumers can see how much consumption drives cost -- and will consume less as a result. Utilities are spending billions of dollars outfitting homes and businesses with the devices, which wirelessly send information about electricity use to utility billing departments and could help consumers control energy use.”*

Wall Street Journal, April 29, 2009.

The smart meter program is also a tool for load-shedding during heavy electrical use periods by turning utility meters off remotely, and for reducing the need for utility employees to read meter data in the field.

### **Purpose of this Report**

This Report has been prepared to document radiofrequency radiation (RF) levels associated with wireless smart meters in various scenarios depicting common ways in which they are installed and operated.

The Report includes computer modeling of the range of possible smart meter RF levels that are occurring in the typical installation and operation of a single smart meter, and also multiple meters in California. It includes analysis of both two-antenna smart meters (the typical installation) and of three-antenna meters (the collector meters that relay RF signals from another 500 to 5000 homes in the area).

RF levels from the various scenarios depicting normal installation and operation, and possible FCC violations have been determined based on both time-averaged and peak power limits (Tables 1 - 14).

Potential violations of current FCC public safety standards for smart meters and/or collector meters in the manner installed and operated in California are illustrated in this Report, based on computer modeling (Tables 10 – 17).

Tables which present data, possible conditions of violation of the FCC public safety limits, and comparisons to health studies reporting adverse health impacts are summarized (Tables 18 – 33).

The next section describes methodology in detail, but generally this Report provides computer modeling results for RF power density levels for these scenarios, analysis of whether and under what conditions FCC public safety

limit violations may occur, and comparison of RF levels produced under these scenarios to studies reporting adverse health impacts with chronic exposure to low-intensity radiofrequency radiation at or below levels produced by smart meters and collector meters in the manner installed and operated in California.

- 1) Single ‘typical’ meter - tables showing RF power density at increasing distances in 0.25’ (3”) intervals outward for single meter (two-antenna meter). Effects of variable duty cycles (from 1% to 90%) and various reflection factors (60%, 100%, 1000% and 2000%) have been calculated.
- 2) Multiple ‘typical’ meters - tables showing RF power density at increasing distances as above.
- 3) Collector meter - tables showing RF power density related to a specialized collector meter which has three internal antennas (one for every 500 or 5000 homes) as above.
- 4) Collector meter - a single collector meter installed with multiple ‘typical’ two-antenna meters as above.
- 5) Tables are given to illustrate the distance to possible FCC violations for time-weighted average and peak power limits (in inches).
- 6) Tables are given to document RF power density levels at various key distances (11” to a crib in a bedroom; 28” to a kitchen work area; and 6” for a person attempting to read the digital readout of a smart meter, or inadvertently working around a meter).
- 7) Tables are given to compare RF power density levels with studies reporting adverse health symptoms and effects (and those levels of RF associated with such health effects).
- 8) Tables are given to compare smart meter and collector meter RF to BioInitiative Report recommended limit (in feet).

### **Framing Questions**

In view of the rapid deployment of smart meters around the country, and the relative lack of public information on their radiofrequency (RF) emission

profiles and public exposures, there is a crucial need to provide independent technical information.

There is very little solid information on which decision-makers and the public can make informed decisions about whether they are an acceptable new RF exposure, in combination with pre-existing RF exposures.

### On-going Assessment of Radiofrequency Radiation Health Risks

The US NIEHS National Toxicology Program nominated radiofrequency radiation for study as a carcinogen in 1999. Existing safety limits for pulsed RF were termed “not protective of public health” by the Radiofrequency Interagency Working Group (a federal interagency working group including the FDA, FCC, OSHA, the EPA and others). Recently, the NTP issued a statement indicating it will complete its review by 2014 (National Toxicology Program, 2009). The NTP radiofrequency radiation study results have been delayed for more than a decade since 1999 and very little laboratory or epidemiological work has been completed. Thus, the explosion of wireless technologies is producing radiofrequency radiation exposures over massive populations before questions are answered by federal studies about the carcinogenicity or toxicity of low-intensity RF such as are produced by smart meters and other SmartGrid applications of wireless. The World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer have not completed their studies of RF (the IARC WHO RF Health Monograph is not expected until at least 2011). In the United States, the National Toxicology Program listed RF as a potential carcinogen for study, and has not released any study results or findings a decade later.

There are no current, relevant public safety standards for pulsed RF involving chronic exposure of the public, nor of sensitive populations, nor of people with metal and medical implants that can be affected both by localized heating and by electromagnetic interference (EMI) for medical wireless implanted devices.

Considering that millions of smart meters are slated to be installed on virtually every electrified building in America, the scope of the question is large and highly personal. Every family home in the country, and every school classroom – every building with an electric meter – is to have a new wireless meter – and thus subject to unpredictable levels of RF every day.

- 1) Have smart meters been tested and shown to comply with FCC public safety limits (limits for uncontrolled public access)?
- 2) Are these FCC public safety limits sufficiently protective of public health and safety? This question is posed in light of the last thirty years of international scientific investigation and public health assessments documenting the existence of bioeffects and adverse health effects at RF levels far below current FCC standards. The FCC's standards have not been updated since 1992, and did not anticipate nor protect against chronic exposures (as opposed to acute exposures) from low-intensity or non-thermal RF exposures, particularly pulsed RF exposures.
- 3) What demonstration is there that wireless smart meters will comply with existing FCC limits, as opposed to under strictly controlled



conditions within government testing laboratories?

4) Has the FCC been able to certify that compliance is achievable under real-life use conditions including, but not limited to:

- In the case where there are both gas and electric meters on the home located closely together.
- In the case where there is a "bank" of electric and gas meters, on a multi-family residential building such as on a condominium or apartment building wall. There are instances of up to 20 or more meters located in close proximity to occupied living space in the home, in the classroom or other occupied public space.
- In the case where there is a collector meter on a home that serves the home plus another 500 to 5000 other residential units in the area, vastly increasing the frequency of RF bursts.
- In the case where there is one smart meter on the home but it acts as a relay for other local neighborhood meters. What about 'piggybacking' of other neighbors' meters through yours? How can piggybacking be reasonably estimated and added onto the above estimates?
- What about the RF emissions from the power transmitters? Power transmitters installed on appliances (perhaps 10-15 of

them per home) and each one is a radiofrequency radiation transmitter.

- How can the FCC certify a system that has an unknown number of such transmitters per home, with no information on where they are placed?
  - Where people with medical/metal implants are present?  
(Americans with Disabilities Act protects rights)
- 5) What assessment has been done to determine what pre-existing conditions of RF exposure are already present. On what basis can compliance for the family inside the residence be assured, when there is no verification of what other RF sources exist on private property? How is the problem of cumulative RF exposure properly assessed (wireless routers, wireless laptops, cell phones, PDAs, DECT or other active-base cordless phone systems, home security systems, baby monitors, contribution of AM, FM, television, nearby cell towers, etc).
- 6) What is the cumulative RF emissions worst-case profile? Is this estimate in compliance?
- 7) What study has been done for people with metal implants\* who require protection under Americans with Disabilities Act? What is known about how metal implants can intensify RF, heat tissue and result in adverse effects below RF levels allowed for the general public. What is known about electromagnetic interference (EMI) from spurious RF sources in the environment (RFID scanners, cell

towers, security gates, wireless security systems, wireless communication devices and routers, wireless smart meters, etc)

\*Note: There are more than 20 million people in the US who need special protection against such exposures that may endanger them. High peak power bursts of RF may disable electronics in some critical care and medical implants. We already have reports of wireless devices disabling deep brain stimulators in Parkinson's patients and there is published literature on malfunctions with critical care equipment.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY LIMITS FOR RADIOFREQUENCY RADIATION**

The FCC adopted limits for Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) are generally based on recommended exposure guidelines published by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) in "Biological Effects and Exposure Criteria for Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields," (NCRP, 1986).

In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) enforces limits for both occupational exposures (in the workplace) and for public exposures. The allowable limits are variable, according to the frequency transmitted. Only public safety limits for uncontrolled public access are assessed in this report.

Maximum permissible exposures (MPE) to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields are usually expressed in terms of the plane wave equivalent power density expressed in units of milliwatts per square centimeter ( $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$ ) or alternatively, absorption of RF energy is a function of frequency (as well as

body size and other factors). The limits vary with frequency. Standards are more restrictive for frequencies at and below 300 MHz. Higher intensity RF exposures are allowed for frequencies between 300 MHz and 6000 MHz than for those below 300 MHz.

In the frequency range from 100 MHz to 1500 MHz, exposure limits for field strength and power density are also generally based on the MPE limits found in Section 4.1 of "*IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz*," ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992 (IEEE, 1992, and approved for use as an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

## US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Exposure Standards

**Table 1, Appendix A FCC LIMITS FOR MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE (MPE)**

### (A) Limits for Occupational/Controlled Exposure

Frequency Range (MHz)	Electric Field Strength (E) (V/m)	Magnetic Field Strength (H) (A/m)	Power Density (S) (mW/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Averaging Time [E] <sup>2</sup> [H] <sup>2</sup> or S (minutes)
0.3-3.0	614	1.63	(100)*	6
3.0-30	1842/f	4.89/f	(900/f <sub>2</sub> )*	6
30-300	61.4	0.163	1.0	6
300-1500			f/300	6
1500-100,000			5	6

### B) FCC Limits for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposure

Frequency Range (MHz)	Electric Field Strength (E) (V/m)	Magnetic Field Strength (H) (A/m)	Power Density (S) (mW/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Averaging Time [E] <sup>2</sup> [H] <sup>2</sup> or S (minutes)
-----------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	---

0.3-3.0	614	1.63	(100)*	30
3.0-30	824/f	2.19/f	(180/f <sub>2</sub> )*	30
30-300	27.5	0.073	0.2	30
300-1500	--	--	f/1500	30
1500-100,000	--	--	1.0	30

---

f = frequency in MHz

\*Plane-wave equivalent power density

NOTE 1: ***Occupational/controlled*** limits apply in situations in which persons are exposed as a consequence of their employment provided those persons are fully aware of the potential for exposure and can exercise control over their exposure. Limits for occupational/controlled exposure also apply in situations when an individual is transient through a location where occupational/controlled limits apply provided he or she is made aware of the potential for exposure.

NOTE 2: ***General population/uncontrolled*** exposures apply in situations in which the general public may be exposed, or in which persons that are exposed as a consequence of their employment may not be fully aware of the potential for exposure or can not exercise control over their exposure. Source: FCC Bulletin OET 65 Guidelines, page 67 OET, 1997.

In this report, the public safety limit for a smart meter is a combination of the individual antenna frequency limits and how much power output they create. A smart meter contains two antennas. One transmits at 915 MHz and the other at 2405 MHz. They can transmit at the same time, and so their effective radiated power is summed in the calculations of RF power density. Their combined limit is 655 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>. This limit is calculated by formulas from Table 1, Part B and is proportionate to the power output and specific safety limit (in MHz) of each antenna.

For the collector meter, with its three internal antennas, the combined public safety limit for time-averaged exposure is 571 MHz (a more restrictive level since it includes an additional 824 MHz antenna that has a lower limit than either the 915 MHz or the 2405 MHz antennas). In a collector meter, only two of the three antennas can transmit simultaneously (the 915 MHz LAN and the GSM 850 MHz (from the FCC Certification Exhibit titled RF Exposure Report for FCC ID: SK9AMI-2A)). The proportionate power output of each antenna plus the safety limit for each antenna frequency combines to give a safety limit for the collector meter of 571 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>. Where one collector meter is combined with multiple smart meters, the combined limit is weighted upward by the additional smart meters' contribution, and is 624 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>.

### **Continuous Exposure**

FCC Bulletin OET 65 guidelines require the assumption of continuous

exposure in calculations. Duty cycles offered by the utilities are a fraction of continuous use, and significantly diminish predictions of RF exposure.

At present, there is no evidence to prove that smart meters are functionally unable to operate at higher duty cycles that some utilities have estimated (estimates vary from 1% to 12.5% duty cycle, and as high as 30%).

Confirming this is the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in its “Perspective on Radio-Frequency Exposure Associated with Residential Automatic Meter Reading Technology (EPRI, 2010) According to EPRI:

*"The technology not only provides a highly efficient method for obtaining usage data from customers, but it also can provide up-to-the-minute information on consumption patterns since the meter reading devices can be programmed to provide data as often as needed."* Emphasis added

The FCC Bulletin OET 65 guidelines specify that continuous exposure (defined by the FCC OET 65 as 100% duty cycle) is required in calculations where it is not possible to control exposures to the general public.

*"It is important to note that for general population/uncontrolled exposures it is often not possible to control exposures to the extent that averaging times can be applied. In those situations, it is often necessary to assume continuous exposure."* (emphasis added)  
FCC Bulletin OET 65, p, 10

***“Duty factor.*** *The ratio of pulse duration to the pulse period of a periodic pulse train. Also, may be a measure of the temporal transmission characteristic of an intermittently transmitting RF source such as a paging antenna by dividing average transmission duration by the average period for transmissions. A duty factor of 1.0*

*corresponds to continuous operation.*”  
(emphasis added)

FCC Bulletin OET 65, p. 2

This provision then specifies duty cycles to be increased to 100%.

The FCC Guidelines (OET 65) further address cautions that should be observed for uncontrolled public access to areas that may cause exposure to high levels of RF.

*Re-radiation*

*The foregoing also applies to high RF levels created in whole or in part by re-radiation. A convenient rule to apply to all situations involving RF radiation is the following:*

- (1) Do not create high RF levels where people are or could reasonably be expected to be present, and (2) [p]revent people from entering areas in which high RF levels are necessarily present.*
- (2) Fencing and warning signs may be sufficient in many cases to protect the general public. Unusual circumstances, the presence of multiple sources of radiation, and operational needs will require more elaborate measures.*
- (3) Intermittent reductions in power, increased antenna heights, modified antenna radiation patterns, site changes, or some combination of these may be necessary, depending on the particular situation.*



Fencing, distancing, protective RF shielded clothing and signage warning occupants not to use portions of their homes or properties are not feasible nor desirable in public places the general public will spend time (schools, libraries, cafes, medical offices and clinics, etc) These mitigation strategies may be workable for RF workers, but are unsuited and intolerable for the public.

### **Reflections**

A major, uncontrolled variable in predicting RF exposures is the degree to which a particular location (kitchen, bedroom, etc) will reflect RF energy created by installation of one or more smart meters, or a collector meter and multiple smart meters. The reflectivity of a surface is a measure of the amount of reflected radiation. It can be defined as the ratio of the intensities of the reflected and incident radiation. The reflectivity depends on the angle of incidence, the polarization of the radiation, and the electromagnetic properties of the materials forming the boundary surface. These properties usually change with the wavelength of the radiation. The reflectivity of polished metal surfaces is usually quite high (such as stainless steel and polished metal surfaces typical in kitchens, for example).

Reflections can significantly increase localized RF levels. High uncertainty exists about how extensive a problem this may create in routine installations of smart meters, where the utility and installers have no idea what kind of reflectivity is present within the interior of buildings.

Reflections in Equation 6 and 10 of the FCC OET Bulletin 65 include rather

minimal reflection factors of 100% and 60%, respectively. This report includes higher reflection factors in line with published studies by Hondou et al, 2006, Hondou, 2002 and Vermeeren et al, 2010. Reflection factors are modeled at 1000% and 2000% as well as at 60% and 100%, based on published scientific evidence for highly reflective environments. Hondou (2002) establishes that power density can be higher than conventional formulas predict using standard 60% and 100% reflection factors.

*"We show that this level can reach the reference level (ICNIRP Guideline) in daily life. This is caused by the fundamental properties of electromagnetic field, namely, reflection and additivity. The level of exposure is found to be much higher than estimated by conventional framework of analysis that assumes that the level rapidly decreases with the inverse square distance between the source and the affected person."*

*"Since the increase of electromagnetic field by reflective boundaries and the additivity of sources has not been recognized yet, further detailed studies on various situations and the development of appropriate regulations are required."*

Hondou et al (2006) establishes that power densities 1000 times to 2000 times higher than the power density predictions from computer modeling (that does not account properly for reflections) can be found in daily living situations. Power density may not fall off with distance as predicted by formulas using limited reflection factors. The RF hot spots created by reflection can significantly increase RF exposures to the public, even above current public safety limits.

*"We confirm the significance of microwave reflection reported in our previous Letter by experimental and numerical studies. Furthermore, we show that 'hot spots' often emerge in reflective areas, where the local exposure level is much higher than average."*

*"Our results indicate the risk of 'passive exposure' to microwaves."*

*"The experimental values of intensity are consistently higher than predicted values. Intensity does not even decrease with distance from the source."*

*"We further confirm the existence of microwave 'hotspots', in which the microwaves are 'localized'. The intensity measured at one hot spot 4.6 m from the transmitter is the same as that at 0.1 m from the transmitter in the case with out reflection (free boundary condition). Namely, the intensity at the hot spot is increased by **approximately 2000 times** by reflection."*

Emphasis added

*"To confirm our experimental findings of the greater-than-predicted intensity due to reflection, as well as the hot spots, we performed two numerical simulations...". " intensity does not monotonically decrease from the transmitter, which is in clear contrast to the case without reflection."*

*"The intensity at the hot spot  $(X, Y, Z) = 1.46, -0.78, 105$ ) around 1.8 m from the transmitter in the reflective boundary condition is **approximately 1000 times higher** than that at the same position in the free boundary condition. The result of the simulation is thus consistent with our experiments, although the values differ owing to the different conditions imposed by computational limits."*

Emphasis added

*"(t)he result of the experiment is also reproduced: a greater than predicted intensity due to reflection, as well as the existence of hot spots."*

*"In comparison with the control simulation using the free boundary condition, we find that the power density at the hot spot is increased by **approximately a thousand times** by reflection."*

Emphasis added

Further, the author comments that:

*"we may be passively exposed beyond the levels reported for electro-*

*medical interference and health risks."*

*"Because the peak exposure level is crucial in considering electro-medical interference, interference (in) airplanes, and biological effects on human beings, we also need to consider the possible peak exposure level, or 'hot spots', for the worst-case estimation."*

Reflections and re-radiation from common building material (tile, concrete, stainless steel, glass, ceramics) and highly reflective appliances and furnishings are common in kitchens, for example. Using only low reflectivity FCC equations 6 and 10 may not be informative. Published studies underscore how use of even the highest reflection coefficient in FCC OET Bulletin 65 Equations 6 and 10 likely underestimate the potential for reflection and hot spots in some situations in real-life situations.

This report includes the FCC's reflection factors of 60% and 100%, and also reflection factors of 1000% and 2000% that are more in line with those reported in Hondou, 2001; Hondou, 2006 and Vermeeren et al, 2010. The use of a 1000% reflection factor in this report is still conservative in comparison to Hondou, 2006. A 1000% reflection factor is 12% of Hondou's larger power density prediction (or 121 times, rather than 1000 times)/ The 2000% reflection factor is 22% of Hondou's figure (or 441 times in comparison to 2000 times higher power density in Hondou, 2006).

### **Peak Power Limits**

In addition to time-averaged public safety limits that require RF exposures to

be time-averaged over a 30 minute time period, the FCC also addresses peak power exposures. The FCC refers back to the ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992 standard to define what peak power limits are.

The ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1999 standard defines peak power density as “*the maximum instantaneous power density occurring when power is transmitted.*” (p. 4) Thus, there is a second method to test FCC compliance that is not being assessed in any FCC Grants of Authorization.

*“Note that although the FCC did not explicitly adopt limits for peak power density, guidance on these types of exposures can be found in Section 4.4 of the ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992 standard.”*

*Page 10, OET 65*

The ANSI/IEEE limit for peak power to which the FCC refers is:

*“For exposures in uncontrolled environments, the peak value of the mean squared field strengths should not exceed 20 times the square of the allowed spatially averaged values (Table 2) at frequencies below 300 MHz, or the equivalent power density of 4 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> for f between 300 MHz and 6 GHz”.*

The peak power exposure limit is 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> for all smart meter frequencies (all transmitting antennas) for any instantaneous RF exposure of 4 milliwatts/cm<sup>2</sup> (4 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) or higher which equals 4000 microwatts/cm<sup>2</sup> (uW/cm<sup>2</sup>).

This peak power limit applies to all smart meter frequencies for both the smart meter (two-antenna configuration) and the collector meter (three-antenna configuration). All these antennas are within the 300 MHz to 6 GHz frequency range where the 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> peak power limit applies

(Table 3, ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1999, page 15).

Smart meters emit frequencies within the 800 MHz to 2400 MHz range.

### **Exclusions**

This peak power limit applies to all parts of the body with the important exception of the eyes and testes.

The ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1999 standard specifically excludes exposure of the eyes and testes from the peak power limit of 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>\*. However, nowhere in the ANSI/IEEE nor the FCC OET 65 documents is there a lower, more protective peak power limit given for the eyes and testes (see also Appendix C).

*“The following relaxation of power density limits is allowed for exposure of all parts of the body except the eyes and testes.” (p.15)*

*“Since most exposures are not to uniform fields, a method has been derived, based on the demonstrated peak to whole-body averaged SAR ratio of 20, for equating nonuniform field exposure and partial body exposure to an equivalent uniform field exposure. This is used in this standard to allow relaxation of power density limits for partial body exposure, except in the case of the eyes and the testes.” (p.20)*

*“In the case of the eyes and testes, direct relaxation of power density limits is not permitted.”(p. 30)*

\*Note: This leaves unanswered what instantaneous peak power is permissible from smart meters. The level must be below 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>. This report shows clearly that smart meters can create instantaneous peak power exposures where the face (eyes) and body (testes) are going to be in

close proximity to smart meter RF pulses. RF levels at and above 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are likely to occur if a person puts their face close to the smart meter to read data in real time. The digital readout of the smart meter requires close inspection, particularly where there is glare or bright sunlight, or low lighting conditions. Further, some smart meters are installed inside buildings within inches of occupied space, virtually guaranteeing exposures that may violate peak power limits. Violations of peak power limits are likely in these circumstances where there is proximity within about 6" and highly reflective surfaces or metallic objects. The eyes and testes are not adequately protected by the 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> peak power limit, and in the cases described above, may be more vulnerable to damage (Appendix C for further discussion).

## METHODOLOGY

Radiofrequency fields associated with SMART Meters were calculated following the methodology described here. Prediction methods specified in Federal Communications Commission, Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin 65 Edition 97-01, August 1997 were used in the calculations.<sup>1</sup>

Section 2 of FCC OET 65 provides methods to determine whether a given facility would be in compliance with guidelines for human exposure to RF radiation. We used equation (3)

$$S = \frac{P \times G \times \partial}{4 \times \pi \times R^2} = \frac{EIRP \times \partial}{4 \times \pi \times R^2} = \frac{1.64 \times ERP \times \partial}{4 \times \pi \times R^2}$$

where:

S = power density (in μW/cm<sup>2</sup>)

P = power input to the antenna (in W)

G = power gain of the antenna in the direction of interest relative to an isotropic radiator

∂ = duty cycle of the transmitter (percentage of time that the transmitter actually transmits over time)

R = distance to the center of radiation of the antenna

$$\text{EIRP} = \text{PG}$$

$$\text{ERP} = 1.64 \text{ EIRP}$$

where:

EIRP = is equivalent (or effective) isotropically radiated power referenced to an isotropic radiator

ERP = is equivalent (or effective) radiated power referenced to a half-wave dipole radiator

### **Analysis input assumptions**

1. SMART Meters [SK9AMI-4] have two RF transmitters (antennas) and are the type of smart meters typically installed on most buildings. They contain two antennas that transmit RF signals (916 MHz LAN and 2405 MHz Zigbee). The antennas CAN transmit simultaneously, and thus the maximum RF exposure is determined by the summation of power densities (from the FCC Certification Exhibit titled RF Exposure Report for FCC ID: SK9AMI-4).  
  
Model SK9AMI-4 transmits on 915 MHz is designated as LAN Antenna Gain for each model.
  - a. Transmitter Power Output (TPO) used is as shown on the grant issued by the Telecommunications Certification Body (TCB).
  - b. Antenna gain in dBi (decibels compared to an isotropic radiator) used comes from the ACS Certification Exhibit.
2. Collector Meters [SK9AMI-2A] have three RF transmitters (antennas)



and are installed where the utility needs them to relay RF signals from surrounding smart meters in a neighborhood. Collector meters contain a third antenna (GSM 850 MHz, 915 MHz LAN and 2405 MHz Zigbee). Collector meters can be placed on any building where a collector meter is needed to relay signals from the surrounding area. Estimates of the number of collector meters varies between one per 500 to one per 5000 smart meters. Collector meters will thus ‘piggyback’ the RF signals of hundreds or thousands of smart meters through the one collector meter. In a collector meter, only two of the three antennas can transmit simultaneously (the 915 MHz LAN and the GSM 850 MHz (from the FCC Certification Exhibit titled RF Exposure Report for FCC ID: SK9AMI-2A).

3. The Cell Relay transmitting at 2480 MHz is not on most meters and not considered in this analysis.
  - a. Transmitter Power Output (TPO) used is as shown on the grant issued by the Telecommunications Certification Body (TCB).
  - b. Antenna gain in dBi (decibels compared to an isotropic radiator) used comes from the ACS Certification Exhibit.

ERP (Effective Radiated Power) used in the computer modeling here is calculated using the TPO and antenna gain established for each model

### **Reflection Factor**

This equation is modified with the inclusion of a ground reflection factor as recommended by the FCC. The ground reflection factor accounts for possible ground reflections that could enhance the resultant power density.

A 60% (0.6) enhancement would result in a 1.6 (1 + 0.6) increase of the field

Red figures used to Calculate ERP		ACS and TCB Certification data sheet							
		SK9AMI-2A				SK9AMI-4			
		ACS		TCB		ACS		TCB	
Radio	Frequency	dBm	Watts	dBi	Watts	dBm	Watts	dBi	Watts
GSM	850	21.9	1.5136	-1.0					
LAN	915	21.92	0.1556	3.0		24.27	0.2673	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.267</b>
LAN	916								0.257
GSM	1900	28.7	0.7413	1.0					
Register	2405	18.71	0.0743	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.074</b>	19.17	0.0826	4.4	
Cell Relay	2406	-14.00	0.00004	-4.00					
Assumptions: TPO per TCB, Antenna Gain per ACS Certification									
ERP Calculation: <b>Bold figures are used for single tier ERP in modeling</b>									
Type	TPO	dBi	dB	Gain	ERP	Freq	Model SK9AMI-4 SK9AMI-2A		
1900 GSM	0.741	1.0	-1.15	0.77	0.5689	1900			
850 GSM	1.514	-1.0	-3.15	0.48	0.7328	850			
<b>RFLAN</b>	<b>0.267</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>0.2704</b>	<b>915</b>			
<b>ZIGBEE</b>	<b>0.074</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-1.15</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.0570</b>	<b>2405</b>			

strength or a  $2.56 = (1.6)^2$  increase in the power density. Similar increases for larger enhancements of the field strength are calculated by the square of the original field plus the enhancement percentage. <sup>2.3.4</sup>

### Reflection Factors:

$$\begin{aligned}
 60\% &= (1 + 0.6)^2 = 2.56 \text{ times} \\
 100\% &= (1 + 1)^2 = 4 \text{ times} \\
 1000\% &= (1 + 10)^2 = 121 \text{ times} \\
 2000\% &= (1 + 20)^2 = 441 \text{ times}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Duty Cycle

How frequently SMART Meters can and will emit RF signals from each of the antennas within the meters is uncertain, and subject to wide variations in estimation. For this reason, and because FCC OET 65 mandates a 100% duty cycle (continuous exposure where the public cannot be excluded) the report gives RF predictions for all cases from 1% to 100% duty cycle at 10%

intervals. The reader can see the variation in RF emissions predicted at various distances from the meter (or bank of meters) using this report at all duty cycles. Thus, for purposes of this report, duty cycles have been estimated from infrequent to continuous. Duty cycles for SMART Meters were calculated at:

Duty cycle ∂:

1%	50%
5%	60%
10%	70%
20%	80%
30%	90%
40%	100%

### **Continuous Exposure**

FCC Bulletin OET 65 and the ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992, 1999 requires that continuous exposure be calculated for situations where there is uncontrolled public access. Continuous exposure in this case means reading the tables at 100% duty cycle.

*“Another feature of the exposure guidelines is that exposures, in terms of power density, E2 or H2, may be averaged over certain periods of time with the average not to exceed the limit for continuous exposure.”<sup>11</sup>*

*“As shown in Table 1 of Appendix A, the averaging time for occupational/controlled exposures is 6 minutes, while the averaging time for general population/uncontrolled exposures is 30 minutes. It is important to note that for general population/uncontrolled exposures it is often not possible to control exposures to the extent that averaging times can be applied. In those situations, it is often necessary to assume continuous exposure.” (FCC OET 65, Page 15)*

### **Calculation Distances in Tables (3-inch increments)**

Calculations were performed in 3-inch (.25 foot) increments from the antenna center of radiation. Calculations have been taken out to a distance of 96 feet from the antenna center for radiation for each of the conditions above. The antenna used for the various links in a SMART Meter is assumed to be at the center of the SMART Meter from front to back – approximately 3 inches from the outer surface of the meter.

Calculations have also been made for a typical nursery and kitchen. In the nursery it has been assumed that the baby in his or her crib that is located next to the wall where the electric SMART Meters are mounted. The closest part of the baby's body can be as close as 11 inches\* from the meter antenna. In the kitchen it has been assumed that a person is standing at the counter along the wall where the electric SMART Meters are mounted. In that case the closest part of the adult's body can be located as close to the meter antenna as 28 inches.

The exposure limits are variable according to the frequency (in megahertz). Table 1, Appendix A show exposure limits for occupational (Part A) and uncontrolled public (Part B) access to radiofrequency radiation such as is emitted from AM, FM, television and wireless sources.

\* Flush-mounted main electric panels that house smart meters are commonly installed; placing smart meters 5" 6" closer to occupied space than box-mounted main electric panels that sit outward on exterior building walls. Assumptions on spacing are made for flush-mounted panels.

## **Conditions Influencing Radiofrequency Radiation Level Safety**

The location of the meter in relation to occupied space, or outside areas of private property such as driveways, walk-ways, gardens, patios, outdoor play areas for children, pet shelters and runs, and many typical configurations can place people in very close proximity to smart meter wireless emissions. In many instances, smart meters may be within inches or a few feet of occupied space or space that is used by occupants for daily activities.

Factors that influence how high RF exposures may be include, but are not limited to where the meter is installed in relation to occupied space, how often the meters are emitting RF pulses (duty cycle), and what reflective surfaces may be present that can greatly intensify RF levels or create 'RF hot spots' within rooms, and so on. In addition, there may be multiple wireless meters installed on some multi-family residential buildings, so that a single unit could have 20 or more electric meters in close proximity to each other, and to occupants inside that unit. Finally, some meters will have higher RF emissions, because – as collector units – their purpose is to collect and resend the RF signals from many other meters to the utility. A collector meter is estimated to be required for every 500 to 5000 buildings. Each collector meter contains three, rather than two transmitting antennas. This means higher RF levels will occur on and inside buildings with a collector meter, and significantly more frequent RF transmissions can be expected. At present, there is no way to predict whose property will be used for

installation of collector meters.

People who are visually reading the wireless meters ‘by sight’ or are visually inspecting and/or reading the digital information on the faceplate may have their eyes and faces only inches from the antennas.

Current standards for peak power limit do not have limits to protect the eyes and testes from instantaneous peak power from smart meter exposures, yet relevant documents identify how much more vulnerable these organs are, and the need for such safety limits to protect the eyes and testes.

### **No Baseline RF Assessment**

Smart meter and collector meter installation are taking place in an information vacuum. FCC compliance testing takes place in an environment free of other sources of RF, quite unlike typical urban and some rural environments. There is no assessment of baseline RF conditions already present (from AM, FM, television and wireless communication facilities (cell towers), emergency and dispatch wireless, ham radio and other involuntary RF sources. Countless properties already have elevated RF exposures from sources outside their own control.

Consumers may also have already increased their exposures to radiofrequency radiation in the home through the voluntary use of wireless devices (cell and cordless phones), PDAs like BlackBerry and iPhones, wireless routers for wireless internet access, wireless home security systems, wireless baby surveillance (baby monitors), and other emerging wireless applications.

Neither the FCC, the CPUC, the utility nor the consumer know what portion of the allowable public safety limit is already being used up or pre-empted by RF from other sources already present in the particular location a smart meter may be installed and operated.

Consumers, for whatever personal reason, choice or necessity who have already eliminated all possible wireless exposures from their property and lives, may now face excessively high RF exposures in their homes from smart meters. This may force limitations on use of their otherwise occupied space, depending on how the meter is located, building materials in the structure, and how it is furnished.

## **RESULTS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The installation of wireless ‘smart meters’ in California can produce significantly high levels of radiofrequency radiation (RF) depending on many factors (location of meter(s) in relation to occupied or usable space, duty cycle or frequency of RF transmissions, reflection and re-radiation of RF, multiple meters at one location, collector meters, etc).

Power transmitters that will relay information from appliances inside buildings with wireless smart meters produce high, localized RF pulses. Any appliance that contains a power transmitter (for example, dishwashers, washers, dryers, ranges and ovens, convection ovens, microwave ovens, flash water heaters, refrigerators, etc) will create another ‘layer of RF signals’ that may cumulatively increase RF exposures from the smart

meter(s).

It should be emphasized that no single assertion of compliance can adequately cover the vast number of site-specific conditions in which smart meters are installed. These site-specific conditions determine public exposures and thus whether they meet FCC compliance criteria.

Tables in this report show either distance to an FCC safety limit (in inches) or they show the predicted (calculated) RF level at various distances in microwatts per centimeter squared ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ).

Both depictions are useful to document and understand RF levels produced by smart meters (or multiple smart meters) and by collector meters (or collections of one collector and multiple smart meters).

Large differences in the results of computer modeling occur in this report by bracketing the uncertainties (running a sufficient number of computer scenarios) to account for variability introduced by possible duty cycles and possible reflection factors.

FCC equations from FCC OET 65 provide for calculations that incorporate 60% or 100% reflection factors. Studies cited in this report document higher possible reflections (in highly reflective environments) and support the inclusion of higher reflection factors of 1000% and 2000% based on Vermeeren et al, 2010, Hondou et al, 2006 and Hondou, 2002. Tables in the report provide the range of results predicted by computer modeling for duty cycles from 1% to 100%, and reflection factors of 60%, 100%, 1000%, and



2000% for comparison purposes. FCC violations of time-weighted average calculations and peak power limit calculations come directly from FCC OET 65 and from ANSI/IEEE c95.1-1992, 1999. Duty cycle (or how frequently the meters will produce RF transmissions leading to elevated RF exposures) is uncertain, so the full range of possible duty cycles are included, based on best available information at this date.

- Tables 1-2 show radiofrequency radiation (RF) levels at 6” (to represent a possible face exposure). These are data tables.
- Tables 3-4 show RF levels at 11” (to represent a possible nursery/bedroom exposure). These are data tables.
- Tables 5-6 show RF levels at 28” to represent a possible kitchen work space exposure. These are data tables.
- Tables 7-9 show the distance to the FCC violation level for time-weighted average limits and for peak power limits (in inches). These are data tables.
- Tables 10-15 show where FCC violations may occur at the face, in the nursery or in the kitchen scenarios. These are colored tables highlighting where FCC violations may occur under all scenarios.
- Tables 16-29 show comparisons of smart meter RF levels with studies that report adverse health impacts from low-intensity, chronic exposure to similar RF exposures. These are colored tables highlighting where smart meter RF levels exceed levels associated with adverse health impacts in published scientific studies.
- Tables 30-31 show RF levels in comparison to Medtronic advisory limit for MRI exposures to radiofrequency radiation at 0.1 W/Kg or about 250 uW/cm<sup>2</sup>. These are colored tables highlighting where smart

meter RF levels may exceed those recommended for RF exposure.

- Tables 32-33 show RF levels from smart meters in comparison to the BioInitiative Report recommendation of 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> for chronic exposure to pulsed radiofrequency radiation.

## Findings

RF levels from the various scenarios depicting normal installation and operation, and possible FCC violations have been determined based on both time-averaged and peak power limits (Tables 1 - 14).

Potential violations of current FCC public safety standards for smart meters and/or collector meters in the manner installed and operated in California are illustrated in this Report, based on computer modeling (Tables 10 – 17).

Tables that present data, possible conditions of violation of the FCC public safety limits, and comparisons to health studies reporting adverse health impacts are summarized (Tables 18 – 33).

*Where do predicted FCC violations occur for the 655 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> time-averaged public safety limit at the face at 6" distance from the meter?*

Table 10 shows that for one smart meter, no violations are predicted to occur at 60% or 100% reflection factor at any duty cycle, but violations are predicted to occur with nearly all scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors.

Table 10 also shows that for multiple smart meters, FCC violations are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor @ 50% to 100% duty cycles; and also at 100% reflection factor @ 30% to 100% duty cycle. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors indicate FCC violations can occur (or conservatively at 12% to 22% of those in Hondou et al, 2006).

Table 11 shows that for one collector meter, one violation occurs at 60% @ 100% duty cycle; and at 100% reflection factor for duty cycles between 60% and 100%. Violations are predicted to occur at all scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors.

Table 11 also shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, FCC violations can occur at 60% reflection factor @ 40% to 100% duty cycles; and also at 100% reflection factor @ 30% to 100% duty cycle. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors indicate FCC violations can occur.

*Where do predicted FCC violations occur for the 655 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> time-averaged public safety limit in the nursery crib at 11" distance?*

Table 12 shows that for one smart meter, no violations are predicted to occur at 60% or 100% reflection factor at any duty cycle, but violations would be predicted with nearly all scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors.

Table 12 also shows that for multiple smart meters, no FCC violations are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor at any duty cycle; and also at 100% reflection factor @ 90% and 100% duty cycle. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors indicate FCC violations can occur.

Table 13 shows that for one collector meter, one violation occurs at 100% reflection @ 100% duty cycle. No violations at 60% reflection are predicted. Violations are predicted to occur at all scenarios using 1000% reflection except @ 1% duty cycle. All 2000% reflection scenarios indicate FCC violations can occur.

Table 13 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, FCC violations are not predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor. At 100% reflection factor, violations are predicted at 60% to 100% duty cycles. FCC violations are predicted for all 1000% and 2000% reflection factors with the exception of 1000% reflection at 1% duty cycle.

*Where do predicted FCC violations occur for the 655 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> time-averaged public safety limit in the kitchen work space at 28" distance?*

Table 14 shows that for one smart meter, no violations are predicted to occur at 60% or 100% reflection factor at any duty cycle. Violations would be predicted with scenarios of 1000% reflection @ 70% to 100% duty cycles and at 2000% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 14 also shows that for multiple smart meters, no FCC violations are predicted to occur at 60% or at the 100% reflection factors at any duty cycle. Violations are predicted at 1000% reflection factor @ 70% to 100% duty cycles and at 2000% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 15 shows that for one collector meter, one violation occurs at 100% reflection @ 100% duty cycle. No violations at 60% reflection are predicted. Violations are predicted to occur at all scenarios using 1000% reflection except @ 1% duty cycle. All 2000% reflection scenarios indicate FCC violations can occur.

Table 15 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, FCC violations are not predicted to occur at 60% or at 100% reflection factors at any duty cycle. At 1000% reflection factor, violations are predicted at 30% to 100% duty cycles. FCC violations are also predicted at 2000% reflection factor @ 10 to 100% duty cycles.

*Where can peak power limits be violated? The peak power limit of 4000 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> instantaneous public safety limit at 3" distance? This limit may be exceeded wherever smart meters and collector meters (face plate or any portion within 3" of the internal antennas can be accessed directly by the public.*

Table 16 shows that for one smart meter, no violations are predicted to occur at 60% or 100% reflection factor at any duty cycle. Peak power limit violations would be predicted with scenarios of 1000% reflection @ 10% to 100% duty cycles and at 2000% reflection factor @ 10% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 16 also shows that for multiple smart meters, peak power limit violations are predicted to occur at 60% reflection @ 60% to 100% duty cycle and for 100% reflection @ 40% to 100% duty cycles. Violations are predicted at 1000% reflection factor @ 10% to 100% duty cycles and at

2000% reflection factor @1% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 17 shows that for one collector meter, peak power limit violations are predicted to occur at 60% reflection @80% to 100% duty cycles and at 100% reflection @ 50% to 100% duty cycles. Violations of peak power limit are predicted to occur at all scenarios using 1000% reflection except @ 1%; and for 2000% reflection violations of peak power limit are predicted at all duty cycles.

Table 17 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, peak power limit violations are predicted to occur at 60% @ 40% to 100% and 100% reflection @ 30% to 100% duty cycles. At 1000% and 2000% reflection factors, peak power limit violations are predicted at all duty cycles.

*Where are RF levels associated with inhibition of DNA repair in human stem cells at 92.5 uW/cm2 exceeded the in the nursery crib at 11" distance?*

Table 18 shows that for one smart meter, RF exposures associated with inhibition of DNA repair in human stem cells are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 70% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 50% to 100% duty cycles. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors exceed these RF exposures except 1000% at 1% duty cycle.

Table 18 also shows that for multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with inhibition of DNA repair in human stem cells are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 20% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors exceed these RF exposure levels except 1000% at 1% duty cycle.

Table 19 shows that for one collector meter, RF exposures associated with inhibition of DNA repair in human stem cells are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 30% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors exceed these RF exposure levels.

Table 19 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with inhibition of DNA repair in human stem cells are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 10% to 100% duty cycles. All scenarios using either 1000% or 2000% reflection factors exceed these RF exposure levels.

*Where are RF levels associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 0.4 – 8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> exceeded the in the nursery crib at 11" distance?*

Table 20 shows that for one smart meter, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor @ 10% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

Table 20 also shows that for multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

Table 21 shows that for one collector meter, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

Table 21 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 1% to 100% duty cycles. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

*Where are RF levels associated with adverse neurological symptoms, cardiac problems and increased cancer risk exceeded in the nursery crib at 11" distance?*

Table 22 shows that for one smart meter, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

Table 22 shows that for multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

Table 23 shows that for one collector meter, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

Table 23 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the nursery in the crib.

*Where are RF levels associated with inhibition of DNA repair in human stem cells at 92.5 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> exceeded in the kitchen work space at 28" distance?*

Table 24 shows that for one smart meter, RF levels do not exceed those associated with inhibition of DNA repair at 60% or 100% reflection factor at any duty cycle. RF levels are exceeded at 1000% @ 10% to 100% duty cycles; and at 2000% reflection factor @ 5% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 24 also shows that for multiple smart meters, RF levels do not exceed those associated with inhibition of DNA repair at 60% or 100% reflection factor at any duty cycle. RF levels are exceeded at 1000% @ 5% to 100% duty cycles; and at 2000% reflection factor @ 1% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 25 shows that for one collector meter, RF levels do not exceed those associated with inhibition of DNA repair at 60% at any duty cycle; at 100% reflection factor they are exceeded at 70% to 100% duty cycles.. RF levels

are exceeded at 1000% @ 5% to 100% duty cycles; and at 2000% reflection factor @ 1% to 100% duty cycles.

Table 25 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, RF levels exceed those associated with inhibition of DNA repair at 60% reflection@100% duty cycle; at 100% reflection factor they are exceeded at 70% to 100% duty cycles.. RF levels are exceeded at 1000% @ 5% to 100% duty cycles; and at 2000% reflection factor @ 1% to 100% duty cycles.

*Where are RF levels associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier and neuron death at 0.4 – 8 uW/cm2 risk in the kitchen work space at 28" distance?*

Table 26 shows that for one smart meter, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm2 are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 40% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 30% to 100% duty cycles, and at all 1000% and 2000% reflections. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm2 (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space except at 1% duty cycle for 60% and 100% reflections.

Table 26 also shows that for multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm2 are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 30% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles, and at all 1000% and 2000% reflections. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm2 (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen.

Table 27 shows that for one collector meter, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm2 are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 20% to 100% duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 10% to 100% duty cycles. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm2 (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space.

Table 27 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with pathological leakage of the blood-brain barrier at 8 uW/cm2 are predicted to occur at 60% reflection factor@ 20% to 100%



duty cycles, and at 100% reflection factor @ 20% to 100% duty cycles. RF levels at 0.4 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> (the lower end of the range) are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space.

*Where are RF levels associated with adverse neurological symptoms, cardiac problems and increased cancer risk in the kitchen work space at 28" distance?*

Table 28 shows that for one smart meter, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space.

Table 28 shows that for multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space.

Table 29 shows that for one collector meter, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space.

Table 29 shows that for one collector meter plus multiple smart meters, RF exposures associated with adverse neurological symptoms above 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> are exceeded at all duty cycles and at all reflection factors in the kitchen work space.

*Where do RF levels exceed the Medtronics Safety Advisory?*

Table 30: At no duty cycles for either 60% or 100% reflection factors; between 10% and 100% duty factors for 1000% and between 5% and 100% duty factors for 2000% reflection (for one smart meter).

Table 30: At 60% reflection @ 60% to 100% duty cycle; and at 100% reflection @ 40% to 100% duty cycle; at 1000% reflection @ 5% to 100% duty cycle and for all duty cycles at 2000% reflection (for multiple smart meters).

Table 31: At 60% reflection @ 70% to 100% duty cycle; at 100% reflection at 50% to 100% duty cycles; at 1000% reflection @ 5% to 100% and at all

duty cycles for 2000% reflection (for one collector meter).

Table 31: At 60% reflection @ 40% to 100% duty cycle; at 100% reflection at 30% to 100% duty cycles; and at all duty cycles for both 1000% reflection and for 2000% reflection (for one collector meter plus three smart meters).

*Where are RF levels associated with smart meters in all their configurations (one meter, multiple smart meters, one collector meter, one collector plus multiple smart meters) above those recommended in the BioInitiative Report (2007)?*

Tables 32 and 33 depict the distance from the center of radiation for the smart meter(s) and collector meter scenarios in feet. The distances (in feet) at which RF levels exceed the BioInitiative Report recommended limit of 0.1 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> is as small as 3.4' (one smart meter at 60% reflection and 1% duty cycle). At 60% reflection and 100% duty cycle, the distance to the BioInitiative recommended limit increases to 34 feet for one smart meter.

When multiples of smart meters are considered, the shortest distance to where the BioInitiative Report recommended limit is exceeded is 9.7 feet (for 60% reflection @ 1% duty cycle). It increases to 97' @100% duty cycle for multiple smart meters.

For a single collector meter, the shortest distance to a BioInitiative Report exceedence is 5.9 feet (60% reflection @ 1% duty cycle). At 60% reflection and 100% duty cycle, it increases to 59 feet.

For a collector and multiple smart meters, the shortest distance is 10.9 feet at 60% reflection @ 1% duty cycle, and increases to 108 feet at 100% duty cycle.

## **Conclusions**

FCC compliance violations are likely to occur under widespread conditions of installation and operation of smart meters and collector meters in California. Violations of FCC safety limits for uncontrolled public access

are identified at distances within 6” of the meter. Exposure to the face is possible at this distance, in violation of the time-weighted average safety limits (Tables 10-11). FCC violations are predicted to occur at 60% reflection and 100% reflection factors\*, both used in FCC OET 65 formulas for such calculations for time-weighted average limits. Peak power limits are not violated at the 6” distance (looking at the meter) but can be at 3” from the meter, if it is touched.

This report has also assessed the potential for FCC violations based on two examples of RF exposures in a typical residence. RF levels have been calculated at distances of 11” (to represent a nursery or bedroom with a crib or bed against a wall opposite one or more meters); and at 28” (to represent a kitchen work space with one or more meters installed on the kitchen wall).

FCC compliance violations are identified at 11” in a nursery or bedroom setting using Equation 10\* of the FCC OET 65 regulations (Tables 12-13). These violations are predicted to occur where there are multiple smart meters, or one collector meter, or one collector meter mounted together with several smart meters.

FCC compliance violations are not predicted at 28” in the kitchen work space for 60% or for 100% reflection calculations. Violations of FCC public safety limits are predicted for higher reflection factors of 1000% and 2000%, which are not a part of FCC OET 65 formulas, but are included here to allow for situations where site-specific conditions (highly reflective environments, for example, galley-type kitchens with many highly reflective stainless steel or other metallic surfaces) may be warranted (see Methodology Section).

In addition to exceeding FCC public safety limits under some conditions of installation and operation, smart meters can produce excessively elevated RF exposures, depending on where they are installed. With respect to absolute RF exposure levels predicted for occupied space within dwellings, or outside areas like patios, gardens and walk-ways, RF levels are predicted to be substantially elevated within a few feet to within a few tens of feet from the meter(s).

For example, one smart meter at 11” from occupied space produces somewhere between 1.4 and 140 microwatts per centimeter squared ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ) depending on the duty cycle modeled (Table 12). Since FCC OET 65 specifies that continuous exposure be assumed where the public cannot be excluded (such as is applicable to one’s home), this calculation produces an RF level of 140  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at 11” using the FCCs lowest reflection factor of 60%. Using the FCC’s reflection factor of 100%, the figures rise to 2.2  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  – 218  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ , where the continuous exposure calculation is 218  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  (Table 12). These are very significantly elevated RF exposures in comparison to typical individual exposures in daily life. Multiple smart meters in the nursery/bedroom example at 11” are predicted to generate RF levels from about 5 to 481  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at the lowest (60%) reflection factor; and 7.5 to 751  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  using the FCCs 100% reflection factor (Table 13). Such levels are far above typical public exposures.

RF levels at 28” in the kitchen work space are also predicted to be significantly elevated with one or more smart meters (or a collector meter alone or in combination with multiple smart meters). At 28” distance, RF

levels are predicted in the kitchen example to be as high as 21  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  from a single meter and as high as 54.5  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  with multiple smart meters using the lower of the FCCs reflection factor of 60% (Table 14).

Using the FCCs higher reflection factor of 100%, the RF levels are predicted to be as high as 33.8  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  for a single meter and as high as 85.8  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  for multiple smart meters (Table 14). For a single collector meter, the range is 60.9 to 95.2  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  (at 60% and 100% reflection factors, respectively) (from Table 15).

Table 16 illustrates predicted violations of peak power limit (4000  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ) at 3" from the surface of a meter. FCC violations of peak power limit are predicted to occur for a single collector meter at both 60% and 100% reflection factors. This situation might occur if someone touches a smart meter or stands directly in front.

### **Uncertainty About Actual RF Levels**

Consumers may also have already increased their exposures to radiofrequency radiation in the home through the voluntary use of wireless devices (cell and cordless phones), PDAs like BlackBerry and iPhones, wireless routers for wireless internet access, wireless home security systems, wireless baby surveillance (baby monitors), and other emerging wireless applications.

Neither the FCC, the CPUC, the utility nor the consumer know what portion of the allowable public safety limit is already being used up or pre-empted

by RF from other sources already present in the particular location a smart meter may be installed and operated.

Consumers, for whatever personal reason, choice or necessity who have already eliminated all possible wireless exposures from their property and lives, may now face excessively high RF exposures in their homes from smart meters. This may force limitations on use of their otherwise occupied space, depending on how the meter is located, building materials in the structure, and how it is furnished.

People who are afforded special protection under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act are not sufficiently acknowledged nor protected. People who have medical and/or metal implants or other conditions rendering them vulnerable to health risks at lower levels than FCC RF limits may be particularly at risk (Tables 30-31). This is also likely to hold true for other subgroups, like children and people who are ill or taking medications, or are elderly, for they have different reactions to pulsed RF. Childrens' tissues absorb RF differently and can absorb more RF than adults (Christ et al, 2010; Wiart et al, 2008). The elderly and those on some medications respond more acutely to some RF exposures.

Eyes and Testes - Safety standards for peak exposure limits to radiofrequency have not been developed to take into account the particular sensitivity of the eyes, testes and other ball shaped organs. There are no peak power limits defined for the eyes and testes, and it is not unreasonable to imagine situations where either of these organs comes into close contact

with smart meters and/or collector meters, particularly where they are installed in multiples (on walls of multi-family dwellings that are accessible as common areas).

What can be determined from the relevant standards (FCC and ANSI/IEEE and certain IEEE committee documents) is that the eye and testes are potentially much more vulnerable to damage, but that there is no scientific basis on which to develop a new, more protective safety limit. What is certain is that the peak power limit of 4000  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  exceeds what is safe (Appendix C).

In summary, no positive assertion of safety can be made by the FCC, nor relied upon by the CPUC, with respect to pulsed RF when exposures are chronic and occur in the general population. Indiscriminate exposure to environmentally ubiquitous pulsed RF from the rollout of millions of new RF sources (smart meters) will mean far greater general population exposures, and potential health consequences. Uncertainties about the existing RF environment (how much RF exposure already exists), what kind of interior reflective environments exist (reflection factor), how interior space is utilized near walls), and other characteristics of residents (age, medical condition, medical implants, relative health, reliance on critical care equipment that may be subject to electronic interference, etc) and unrestrained access to areas of property where meter is located all argue for caution.

### **Electronic Interference**

Consumers may experience electronic interference (electromagnetic interference or EMI) from smart meter wireless signals. The FCC also is charged with investigating consumer complaints about electronic interference.

*“The FCC requires that unlicensed low-power RF devices must not create interference and users of such equipment must resolve any interference problems or cease operation. According to the FCC (47CFR Part 15): “The operator of a radio frequency device shall be required to cease operating the device upon notification by a Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference. Operation shall not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected.”*

(EPRI, 2010)

Medical and other critical care equipment in the home environment may not work, or work properly due to electronic interference from smart meters.

Security systems, surveillance monitors and wireless intercoms may be rendered inoperable or unreliable. Some cordless telephones do not work reliably, or have substantial interference from smart meter RF emissions.

Electronic equipment and electrical appliances may be damaged or have to be replaced with other, newer equipment in order not to be subject to electromagnetic interference from smart meter RF bursts.

### **Americans With Disabilities Act**

People who have medical implants, particularly metal implants, may be



more sensitive to spurious RF exposures for two reasons. Electromagnetic interference (EMI) with critical care medical equipment and medical implants is a potentially serious threat. Patients with deep-brain stimulators (Parkinson's disease patients) have reported adverse health effects due to RF from various environmental sources like security gates and RFID scanners. Patients with deep brain stimulators have reported the devices to be reprogramming or electrodes shut-down as a result of encounters with wireless RFID scanners. One manufacturer, Medtronic, has issued a warning for DBS implant patients to limit RF exposure to less than 0.1 W/Kg SAR (or sixteen times lower than for the general public) for MRI exposures.

The IEEE SC4 committee (2001) considered changes to existing ANSI/IEEE standards adopted in 1992 (C95.1-1992). They discussed vulnerable organs (eyes, testes) and metallic implants that can intensify localized RF exposures within the body and its tissues.

*“Question 20: Are there specific tissues or points within the body that have particularly high susceptibilities to local heating due to thermal properties in the immediate vicinity of the tissue?”*

Committee minutes include the following discussion on metallic implants.

*“Metallic implants are an interesting example of this question. There can be very localized high field concentrations around the tips of long metal structures, in the gaps of wire loops. Of course, these metal devices don't create energy, but can only redistribute it, so the effect is limited to some extent. Also the high thermal conductivity and specific heat capacity make them good thermal sinks for any localized heat sources generated around them.”*

Since deep brain stimulators in Parkinson's patients involve metal implants that are essentially long metal structures with tips that interface with brain tissue and nerves within the brain and body, exposing such patients with implants to high levels of pulsed RF that can produce localized, high RF within the body is certainly inadvisable. It is clear the IEEE SC4 committee recognized the potential risk by to calling such implanted metallic devices good 'thermal sinks' for localized heating dissipation.

The FCC's Grants of Authorization and other certification procedures do not ensure adequate safety to safeguard people under Department of Justice protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## **References**

ANSI/IEEE standards adopted in 1992 (C95.1-1992) and 1999 revisions  
June 2001 SC-4 Committee Minutes

Christ A Gosselin MC Christopoulou M Kühn S Kuster N. Age dependent tissue-specific exposure of cell phone users. *Physics in Medicine and Biology*, Volume 55, Issue 7, pp. 1767–1783, 7 April 2010, online March 5

EPRI, 2010. A Perspective on Radio-Frequency Exposure Associated With Residential Automatic Meter Reading Technology, Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA.

Federal Communications Commission, 1997. FCC Bulletin OET 65 97-01 Guidelines Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields.

Hondou T Ueda T Sakat Y Tanigawa N Suzuki T Kobayashi T Ikeda K. Passive Exposure to Mobile Phones: Enhancement of Intensity by Reflection, *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan* Vol. 75, No. 8, August, 2006, 084801 (2006) The Physical Society of Japan

Hondou T, Rising Level of Public Exposure to Mobile Phones: Accumulation through Additivity and Reflectivity. *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*, Vol. 71, No. 2, February, 2002, pp. 432–435 (2002) The Physical Society of Japan.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. 1999. IEEE Standards Coordinating Committee 28, IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields 3 kHz to 300 GHz. December, 1998.

Khurana VG Hardell L Everaert J Bortkiewicz A Carlberg M Ahonen M, 2010. Epidemiological Evidence for a Health Risk from Mobile Phone Base Stations. *Int Journal of Occupational Environmental Health* 2010;16:263–267

Kundi M Hutter HP Mobile phone base stations—Effects on wellbeing and health. *Pathophysiology* 16 (2009) 123–135

Markova E Malmgren LOG Belyaev IY. Microwaves from mobile phones inhibit 53PB1 focus formation in human stem cells stronger than in differentiated cells: Possible mechanistic link to cancer risk. *Environmental Health Perspectives* On-line 22 October 2009 doi:10.1289/ehp.0900781

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) in "Biological Effects and Exposure Criteria for Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields," NCRP Report No. 86, Sections 17.4.1, 17.4.1.1, 17.4.2 and 17.4.3. Copyright NCRP, 1986, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

National Toxicology Program Fact Sheet, (2009). *Cell Phone Radiofrequency Radiation Studies*, (September 2009).

Vermeeren G Gosselin MC Gosselin Kuhn S Kellerman V Hadmen A Gati A Joseph W Wiart J Meyer F Kuster N Martens L. The influence of the reflective environment on the absorption of a human male exposed to representative base station antennas from 300 MHz to 5 GHz, *Phys. Med. Biol.* 55 (2010) 5541–5555 [doi:10.1088/0031-9155/55/18/018](https://doi.org/10.1088/0031-9155/55/18/018)

Wiart, J., Hadjem, A., Wong, M.F., & Bloch, I. (2008). Analysis of RF exposure in the head tissues of children and adults. *Physical Medicine & Biology*, 53, 3681-3695.

# Appendix A Tables A1- A 48

## RADIOFREQUENCY RADIATION VERSUS DISTANCE

<b>One Smart Meter</b>		
Table A1	60% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A2	100% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A3	1000% Reflection*	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A4	2000% Reflection*	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
<hr/>		
<b>Multiple Smart Meters (Four**)</b>		
Table A5	60% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A6	100% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A7	1000% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A8	2000% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
<hr/>		
<b>One Collector Meter</b>		
Table AA9	60% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A10	100% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A11	1000% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A12	2000% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
<hr/>		
<b>One Collector Meter + 3 SM**</b>		
Table A13	60% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)

Table A14	100% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A15	1000% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)
Table A16	2000% Reflection	(1%-100% duty cycles in each table)

**TABLES OF CRITICAL DISTANCES IN NURSERY (CRIB AT 11")  
AND KITCHEN SINK (AT 28") FROM SMART METER  
(A17-A48)**

Table A17	Nursery Set –
Table A18	One Smart Meter – Critical Distance 11" to baby in crib
Table A19	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% duty cycle
Table A20	<u>1% thru 90% duty cycle</u>
<hr/>	
Table A21	Nursery Set –
Table A22	Eight Smart Meters – Critical Distance 11" to baby in crib
Table A23	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A24	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>
<hr/>	
Table A25	Nursery Set –
Table A26	One Collector– Critical Distance 11" to baby in crib
Table A27	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A28	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>
<hr/>	
Table A29	Nursery Set –
Table A30	One Collector Meter + 7 SM– Critical Distance 11" to baby crib
Table A31	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A32	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>
<hr/>	
Table A33	Kitchen Set –
Table A34	One Smart Meter – Critical Distance 28" to kitchen sink person

Table A35	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A36	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>
<hr/>	
Table A37	Kitchen Set -
Table A38	Eight Smart Meters – Critical Distance 28” to kitchen sink person
Table A39	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A40	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>
Table A41	Kitchen Set –
Table A42	One Collector – Critical Distance 28” to kitchen sink person
Table A43	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A44	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>
Table A45	Kitchen Set –
Table A46	One Collector + 7 SM – Critical Distance 28” to kitchen
Table A47	60%, 100%, 1000%, 2000% reflection
Table A48	<u>1% thru 100% duty cycle</u>

## **Appendix B                      Tables 1 – 33 of Report**

### **Data Tables, FCC Violation Tables, Health Comparisons**

Table 1	Radiofrequency Level at Each Duty Cycle and Reflection Factor at 6” in uW/cm2 (One Meter, Four Meters)
Table 2	Radiofrequency Level at Each Duty Cycle and Reflection Factor at 6” in uW/cm2 (One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 3	RF Level of Each Duty Cycle and Reflection Factor at 11” in uW/cm2 in the Nursery (One meter, Four meters)
Table 4	RF Level of Each Duty Cycle and Reflection Factor at 11” in uW/cm2 in

	the Nursery	(One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 5	RF Level of Each Duty Cycle and Reflection Factor at 28” in uW/cm <sup>2</sup> in the Kitchen	(One Meter, Four Meters)
Table 6	RF Level of Each Duty Cycle and Reflection Factor at 28” in uW/cm <sup>2</sup> in the Kitchen	(One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 7	Distance at which FCC Safety Limit is exceeded for 655 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> time-weighted average limit	(One Meter, Four Meters)
Table 8	Distance at which FCC Safety Limit is exceeded for 571/624 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> TWA limit	(One Collector, 1C+ 3 Smart Meters)
Table 9	Distance at which FCC Safety Limit is exceeded for peak power limit of 4000 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> –	(1 SM, 4 SM; 1Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 10	FCC Violations of the 655 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> FCC limit at the face at 6”	(One Meter, Four Meters)
Table 11	FCC Violations of the 571/624 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> FCC limit at 6” at the face	(One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 12	FCC Violations of the 655 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> FCC limit at 11” in the Nursery	(One Meter, Four Meters)
Table 13	FCC Violations of the 571/624 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> FCC limit at 11” in the Nursery	(One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 14	FCC Violations of the 655 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> FCC limit at 28” in the Kitchen	(One Meter, Four Meters)
Table 15	FCC Violations of the 571/624 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> FCC limit at 28” in the Kitchen	(One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 16	Potential FCC Violations of Peak Power Limit of 4000 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> at 3”	(One SM, 4 SM)
Table 17	Potential FCC Violations of Peak Power Limit of 4000 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> at 3”	(One Collector, 1C + 3 SM)
Table 18	Nursery Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Inhibition of DNA Repair in Human Stem Cells (92.5 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with 24 and 72-hour exposure – Markova et al, 2009)	(One SM, 4 SM)
Table 19	Nursery Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Inhibition of	



	DNA Repair in Human Stem Cells (92.5 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with 24 and 72-hour exposure – Markova et al, 2009) (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)
Table 20	Nursery Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Pathological Leakage of the Blood-brain Barrier (0.4 to 8 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Persson et al, 1997) (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 21	Nursery Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Pathological Leakage of the Blood-brain Barrier (0.4 to 8 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Persson et al, 1997) (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)
Table 22	Nursery Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Adverse Health Symptoms from Cell Tower Studies (8 studies in total reporting sleep disruption, headache, fatigue, memory loss, concentration difficulties, irritability, increased cancer risk) (0.01 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Kundi, 2009; Khurana et al, 2010) (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 23	Nursery Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Adverse Health Symptoms from Cell Tower Studies (8 studies in total reporting sleep disruption, headache, fatigue, memory loss, concentration difficulties, irritability, increased cancer risk) (0.01 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Kundi, 2009; Khurana et al, 2010) (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)
Table 24	Kitchen Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Inhibition of DNA Repair in Human Stem Cells (92.5 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with 24 and 72-hour exposure – Markova et al, 2009) (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 25	Kitchen Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Inhibition of DNA Repair in Human Stem Cells 92.5 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with 24 and 72-hour exposure – Markova et al, 2009) (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)
Table 26	Kitchen Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Pathological Leakage of the Blood-brain Barrier (0.4 to 8 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Persson et al, 1997) (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 27	Kitchen Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Pathological Leakage of the Blood-brain Barrier (0.4 to 8 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Persson et al, 1997) (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)
Table 28	Kitchen Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Adverse Health Symptoms from Cell Tower Studies (8 studies in total reporting sleep disruption, headache, fatigue, memory loss, concentration difficulties, irritability, increased cancer risk) (0.01 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Kundi, 2009; Khurana et al, 2010) (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 29	Kitchen Radiofrequency Radiation Level Associated with Adverse Health

Symptoms from Cell Tower Studies (8 studies in total reporting sleep disruption, headache, fatigue, memory loss, concentration difficulties, irritability, increased cancer risk) (0.01 uW/cm<sup>2</sup> with chronic exposure - Kundi, 2009; Khurana et al, 2010) (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)

Table 30	Radiofrequency Radiation Level Exceeds Medtronic Metal Implant Advisory for MRI SAR Exposure of 0.1 W/Kg at Frequencies also Used in Smart Meters at 11” (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 31	Radiofrequency Radiation Level Exceeds Medtronic Metal Implant Advisory for MRI SAR Exposure of 0.1 W/Kg at Frequencies also Used in Smart Meters at 11” (One Collector, 1 C + 3 SM)
Table 32	Predicted RF levels exceed BioInitiative Report recommended limit of 0.1 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> (One SM, 4 SM)
Table 33	Predicted RF levels exceed BioInitiative Report recommended limit of 0.1 uW/cm <sup>2</sup> (1 Collector 1C + 3 SM)

## Appendix C

### Other Sources of Information on sensitivity of the eyes and testes

In the most recent proposed revisions of RF safety standards, the IEEE SC4 committee (2001) deliberated at length over the problem of peak power limits and non-uniform RF exposure with respect to the eye and testes. The quotes below come from committee drafts submitted in response to questions from the committee moderator.

**ANSI/IEEE standards adopted in 1992 (C95.1-1992) and 1999 revisions**  
June 2001 SC-4 Committee Minutes

These committee discussions are informative on the issue of particular organ sensitivity to RF, and unanswered questions and differences of opinion on the subject among members. They discussed vulnerable organs (eyes, testes) and metallic implants that can intensify localized RF exposures within the body and its tissues (see also discussion on metallic implants).

***Question 20: Are there specific tissues or points within the body that have particularly high susceptibilities to local heating due to thermal properties in the immediate vicinity of the tissue?***

Committee minutes include the following discussion on the particular sensitivities of ‘ball shaped’ organs including the eyes and testes.

*“Eye balls are commonly regarded as the critical organ”*

*“In the range of a few GHz (gigahertz), resonances may occur in ball shaped eyes and testes. They are also electrically and thermally partly insulated from other tissues. Additionally these organs or some of their parts (lens) are thermally a little bit more vulnerable than other tissues.”*

*“(m)odeling has noted that rapid changes in dielectrics such as cerebral*

*spinal fluid in the ventricles of the brain and surrounding brain tissue lead to high calculated SARs. Secondly, exposure of the eye to microwave radiation can lead to increased temperature that is sufficient to damage tissues. The temperature rise will, of course, depend on the intensity of the irradiation, how well the energy is coupled into tissues, and how well the deposited energy is removed by normal mechanisms such as conduction and blood flow. Microwaves at the lower frequencies will be deposited deeper in the eye, while at higher frequencies they will be absorbed near the front surface of the eye. The eye does not efficiently remove heat deposited internally by microwave exposure. The main avenue of heat removal is conduction and blood flow through the retina and choroid. The lens has been thought to be the most vulnerable tissue since it has no blood flow. Other than conduction through the sclera and convection from the surface of the cornea, heat removal is poor compared to other body tissues. Because the lens is avascular it has been thought to be particularly sensitive to thermal effects of microwave exposure. These facts have led many investigators to postulate that the poor heat dissipation from within the eye of humans and other animals may lead to heat buildup and subsequent thermal damage.”*

*“Eyes do not have good blood circulation and testes have lower than body temperature.”*

*“These organs are not well-perfused, hence have been singled out for the exclusion.”*

*“Are the above numbers valid for all parts of the body in all exposure conditions over the time averaging period of the exposure? They (the basic limits) were derived in the manner you describe in body resonance conditions i.e. coherent exposure over the whole body length of a human. Could the limit values of SAR be increased for partial body exposure? Yes, but we do not have the data to make this decision. In the near field of a source, clearly the limit value will depend on frequency (depth of penetration), organ blood supply and tolerance of that organism to sustain a certain rate of temperature increase during the time averaging period and the environmental conditions. If you have to deal with possible pathologies of organs then matters become even more complicated, because you are dealing not only with heat physiology, but also with general pathology, whose books are much thicker than those on physiology.*

